

REMARKS AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Official Action mailed August 23, 2007 (hereinafter the Official Action). Applicants further appreciate the indication that Claims 6, 12, and 13, include patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten as suggested by the Examiner. *Official action, page 5.*

In response, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 11, and 13 to place these claims in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants have rewritten Claim 18 to include recitations similar to those found in original Claim 6 (indicated by the Examiner to include patentable subject matter). In view of the above, Claims 1 - 5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18 - 21 and new Claim 26 are in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested in due course.

Applicants have canceled all other pending claims thereby rendering the rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course for at least the reasons described herein.

Interview Summary

Applicants' representative (Robert N Crouse) thanks the Examiner for his courtesy during a telephone interview on September 14, 2007, wherein Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding Official Action and Applicants' proposed response. In particular, Applicants' representative proposed several changes to the claims in response to the rejections under section 112, as well as changes to the Abstract and Drawings, as well as the rejections under section 101. Applicants' representative and the Examiner reached agreement regarding amendments to place the Application in condition for allowance.

Additional Information Regarding The Cited US Patent Application.

The Examiner requested status information regarding the US Patent Application No. cited on page 6 of the specification (*i.e.*, No. 20030093436, published May 15, 2003). After a review of public PAIR information, Applicants were unable to determine any additional information as it remains pending as of the date of filing of this response. Applicants further note that this application is not assigned to the present assignee and therefore no private PAIR information is available. Accordingly, Applicants are unable to comply with the Examiner's request for further information regarding this application.

Replacement Drawings Are Provided Herewith

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. section 1.84 (o) for lack of the legends. *Official action, page 2.* In response, Applicants have provided herewith a set of replacement sheets showing Figures 1 - 6 amended to include legends, as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

The Abstract Has Been Amended

The present abstract stands objected to as allegedly being unclear. *Official action, page 2.* In response, Applicants have provided a new abstract which complies with the requirements set out in the Official Action. Accordingly, the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The Rejections Under Section 101 Are Now Moot

Claims 22 - 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 101. *Official action, page 2.* Applicants have canceled Claims 22 – 25, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under section 101.

The Rejections Under Section 112

Claims 1 - 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph. *Official action, page 3.* In particular, the Official Action alleges that the claims fail to recite what action is taken in regard to communication between service nodes in a service grid after a determination is made.

Applicants have amended independent claims 11 and 13 to include the recitations analogous to original Claim 6 and to be in independent form, respectfully. In each case, the newly added recitations detail actions undertaken in response to the determination referred to in the Official Action. For example, amended Claim 1 now recites that the determining further includes, for example, requesting the version of the destination service node from the destination service node... converting the requesting service node message from the

requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is known at the interoperability service. These recitations clearly set out the actions that are taken responsive to the determination highlighted by the Official Action.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 12, which includes recitations regarding results associated with the determination highlighted by the Official Action. Further, dependent Claim 13 has been amended to be an independent form by including the recitations of Claim 11. Claim 13 includes recitations which further define the determination step highlighted by the Official Action. Accordingly, these claims have also been amended to address the rejections under section 112.

Applicants respectfully note, however, that original Claim 11 includes the recitation of "updating the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service based on the determined version of the destination service node," which does provide a recitation of what is done in response to the determining step highlighted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully maintain that the original recitations of Claim 11 do comply with all requirements of section 112. These amendments are being made to expedite prosecution of the present matter and are not admitted to be properly rejected under section 112.

The Official Action also alleged that the transmitting format and the receiving format are independent. Applicants respectfully point out that these formats are described in the specification to be different from one another, which is at least one reason why the inter-operability node is useful is translating between the formats. See, for example, page 7, lines 3-16, of the specification. Accordingly, these recitations of the claims also comply with all requirements of section 112.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections under section 112.

The Rejections Under Section 103 Are Moot

Claims 1 - 5, 7 - 11, and 14 - 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 over the cited references. *Official Action, page 4*. In response, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 8-10, 15-17, and 22-25, thereby rendering the rejections under section 103 moot.

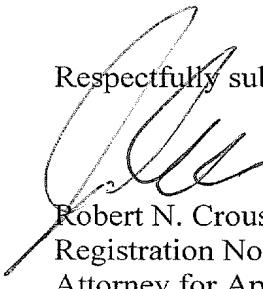
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under section 103 and the allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants have added new dependent Claim 26, which depends from allowable Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request the allowance of new Claim 13 for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

As described above, Applicants have provided additional information required by the Examiner, such as, amendments to the drawings and a new abstract. Applicants have further canceled several rejected claims thereby rendering the rejections under sections 101 and 103 moot. Accordingly, all pending claims are in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested in due course. If any informal matters arise the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at 919-854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

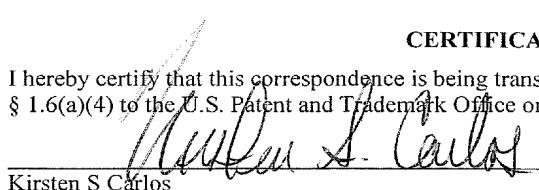


Robert N. Crouse
Registration No. 44,635
Attorney for Applicants

USPTO Customer No. 46589
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 18, 2007.



Kirsten S. Carlos